

*Lyon-Smith Home.*  
"Bluff Hall"  
Demopolis, Alabama  
*Marengo Co.*

HABS No. <sup>ALA</sup> 16-213  
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46-DEMO  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Ala. Polytechnic Instt, Auburn, Ala.

"BLUFF HALL"  
(FRANCIS STROTHER LYON'-SMITH)

Ownership:

Present Owner: Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Smith.

Previous Owners: Mrs. Francis Strother Lyon.  
Miss Eugenia Lyon.

Date of Erection: 1832.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Allen Glover.

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Greek Revival; masonry and  
Frame; square columns.

Other Existing Records:

See: Birmingham News, June 24, 1934.

"ALABAMA POSSESSOR OF RICH HERITAGE"  
By E. W. Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS.

See: Birmingham News, September 9, 1934.

"WEST ALABAMA RICH IN OLD HOMES"  
By E. W. Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS.

See: Birmingham News, December 1, 1935.

" GATHERING PEARLS IN THE BLACK BELT"  
By Varian Feare, (Mrs. E.W. Burkhardt)

Additional Data: "Bluff Hall", was built by Allen Glover, as a gift to his daughter, Mrs. Francis Strother Lyon.

Bluff Hall looms up conspicuously just beyond the city square. Set on a bluff of the river, it is no longer supreme in the midst of a large acreage but bluntly faces a paved street, all too near for its monumentality. It was the home of the pioneer spirit, Francis Strother Lyon, planter, lawyer, financier, and statesman.

It represents a sturdy type of - ambitious early home, where the use of the Greek pilaster treatment applied to column use has resulted in a square box column lacking the grace of Greek usage as exemplified in the foregoing plantation homes of this article. It gives a unique, but severe effect. This severity, however, is softened by the closely repeated guttae of the entablature, the elliptically-arched entrance, and the iron balcony over.

There is a substantial beauty which makes this house of distinct type. The slave quarters to the rear are quite interesting in their simplicity.

The timbers used in construction of this home were felled and hewn by slave labor, the brick were baked in kilns, the iron was moulded in the furnace of this plantation.

Francis Strother Lyon was born in Stokes County, North Carolina, February 25, 1800. Died in Demopolis, December 31, 1882. In 1817, he came with his older brother, James G. Lyon, to live with their uncle, George Strother Gaines at Fort Stephens, Alabama. He was admitted to the bar in 1821 and practiced at Demopolis. He held various political offices in the state, was elected to Congress in 1835. In 1845, when state banks were placed in liquidation, he with Wm. Cooper and Clement G. Clay was selected as - Commissioners to adjust all claims. After this commission reported and was discharged 1847, Mr Lyon continued to serve as sale commissioner until 1853. Served in two Confederate Congress'es 1862 - 64. As delegate to State Constitutional Convention 1875. He drafted Constitution adopted by convention March 4, 1874. Mr. Lyon married Sarah Gerene Glover, daughter of Allen Glover.

Source of Material:

Family records and traditions.  
By, Mrs. Frances Rembert Tibbs.  
Great grand neice of Francis  
Strother Lyon.  
Demopolis, Alabama.

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd.  
Auburn, Alabama.  
Approved: E. W. Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS.  
Auburn, Alabama.

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